IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended) An automated authentication handling system comprising: an authentication server operable to:
- establish a two-way trusted communication link with an authenticated user; and establish access for the authenticated user to a list of application servers associated with a client identifier.
- 2. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes:

an identification engine configured to maintain collections of session assignments, each of said session assignment collections being associated with the client identifier.

- 3. (Currently Amended) The automated authentication handling system of claim 2 wherein said identification engine is operable to receive receives client identifiers from said clients to establish authenticated users and responsive thereto to provide a user interface to access said application servers according to said associated session assignments.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes:
- a communication initiator engine configured to establish the trusted communication link between said authenticated users and an application server on said list.

. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 3 wherein said authentication server includes:

a communication initiator engine configured to establish the trusted communication link defined to one of said session assignments between said authenticated users and said application server.

- 6. (Original) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said session assignments include data fields selected from the group consisting of session timeout and application access level.
- 7. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said client identifier includes a user id and password.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The automated authentication handling system of claim 1 wherein said authentication server includes a processor under the control of software to:

receive an authentication signal from said client;

provide an application access interface to said client in response to said authentication signal; and

establish the trusted communication link between said client and an application server selected from said application access interface.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for automatically authenticating a client comprising the steps of:

providing an authentication server;

identifying clients to access a plurality of application servers by said authentication server;

- establishing a two-way trusted communication link with an authenticated client; and establishing access between a client and an application server selected from a list of application servers associated with a client identifier.
- 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:

providing session parameters for each of said identified clients for at least one of said application servers.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said identifying step includes:

providing a user interface to said identified clients to access said application servers.

- 12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said establishing step includes: using said session parameters to establish said trusted communication link.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said user interface includes a listing of application servers and said establishing steps are initiated following a selection of an application server by a user from said user interface.
- 14. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of application servers connected to said network, each requiring authentication for access.